

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING &
BUDGET SESSION
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 13, 2002
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JOSEPH M. BUTLER PRESIDING

PRESENT: COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS
 COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH
 COUNCILMAN PAUL A. SIMMONS
 COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH
 MAYOR BUTLER

ALSO PRESENT: CITY MANAGER JERRY C. HILLER
 ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU
 ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE

The following resolutions and ordinance were presented to Council:

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown has submitted a comprehensive grant for \$750,000 to fund housing rehabilitation, homeownership, and public facility improvements in a target area within the Near East Side Neighborhood Improvement District around the Emerson Place project, and

WHEREAS in order to move this project forward, the City is being asked to acquire and demolish certain properties within the Near East Side Neighborhood Improvement District, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has reached an agreement with the owner of Parcels No. 6-08-106, 6-08-117 and 6-08-109, at a purchase price of \$197,000 plus closing costs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the purchase of Parcels No. 6-08-106, 6-08-117 and 6-08-109, at a purchase price of \$197,000 plus closing costs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Comptroller is authorized, upon approval of the offer to purchase said property by the City Council, to issue a check in the amount of \$18,000 as a deposit, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is subject to the City Council's approval of a bond ordinance to pay for said property, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Joseph M. Butler is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract to Purchase property, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH

MOTION TO TABLE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN SMITH, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital project hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the specific object or purpose of paying the cost of the acquisition and construction of the so-called State Street/Emerson Place Improvement Project, consisting of the acquisition of various parcels of land on State Street and Emerson Place, the demolition of buildings thereon and the purchase and installation of streets, sidewalks, storm and sanitary sewer and water mains therein and therefore, including incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$605,000 serial bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$605,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$605,000 serial bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance; provided, however, that the amount of serial bonds ultimately to be issued will be reduced by the amount of any State and, or Federal aid received by said City for such specific object or purpose.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision 91 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, it being hereby determined that each individual item of the State Street/Emerson Place Improvement Project has a period of probable usefulness of at least fifteen years.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the serial bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The faith and credit of said City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 6. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Comptroller and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk.

Section 7. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as he shall deem best for the interests of the City, provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, he shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the City Comptroller shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.

Section 8. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the City by the facsimile signature of the City Comptroller, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the City), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the City Comptroller. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the City not to impose and collect from registered owners of such serial bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and

shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine.

Section 9. This ordinance shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this ordinance, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 10. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this ordinance are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 11. This ordinance, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in full in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH (laid over under the rules)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS on February 19, 2002 the City Council of the City of Watertown adopted a resolution that authorized the City to enter into an Agreement with the State of New York for the construction of a Bus Garage and a Bus Transfer Site, and

WHEREAS prior to the vote on the aforementioned resolution, the City Council discussed the location of the proposed bus transfer site, and

WHEREAS it was further decided at that meeting that the City Council would wait until August 19, 2002, six months from the meeting date, to try to market the former American Hotel site for private development before committing to selecting that location as the site for the bus transfer facility, and

WHEREAS the Downtown Development Board has reviewed alternative sites and feels that the relocation of the bus transfer facility to the former American Hotel site will have a positive impact on the economic development of downtown Watertown and on the future viability of the Woolworth Building,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the relocation of the CitiBus Transfer Site to the former American Hotel site.

SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

(Rules waived by motion of Councilman Clough, seconded by Councilwoman Burns and carried with all voting in favor thereof.)

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Councilwoman Burns explained that the Downtown Development Board had put a great deal of thought into the site for the bus transfer. This location will enhance the corridor for downtown and the placement of restrooms there will be an asset, as well. In addition, Councilwoman Burns also discussed the fact that the City will be obligated to repair the side of the Woolworth building. Since the bus transfer site is being placed in this location, federal funding may be able to be used to help with enhance the project.

Mr. Hiller advised Council that the City hasn't received the grant yet. However, the City was asked to apply for the grant so he feels confident that the City should receive the funding.

Councilman Smith suggested approving this resolution contingent upon the City receiving the grant.

Councilman Simmons responded that he didn't think it was right to put a contingent such as that on the resolution.

Councilman Smith asked if there had been input from the Transportation Commission.

Mr. Hiller explained that there had been and they also recommended the site.

Motion was made by Councilman Clough, seconded by Councilman Simmons and carried with all voting in favor thereof to take from the table the resolution "Approving Supplemental Agreement #3 Mass Transportation Capital Project Agreement, PIN 7797.05.303 was presented to Council (Introduced on May 6, 2002; tabled; appears in its entirety on page 107 of the 2002 Minutes Book)

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mr. Hiller reiterated the fact that NYS DOT expects the additional route to be in place for the next fiscal year.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Motion was made by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilwoman Burns and carried with all voting in favor thereof to take from the table the resolution “Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known As VL 227 Keyes Avenue, Parcel No. 11-03-101.000 was presented to Council (Introduced on May 6, 2002; tabled; appears in its entirety on page 103 of the 2002 Minutes Book)

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Butler asked what the value of the property was.

Mr. Hiller referred to Mrs. Norfolk’s memo indicating that the value is between \$6,000 and \$6,500.

Mayor Butler stated that he believes the policy should be changed to stipulate the auctioning and the appropriate advertising for each lot being sold.

Councilman Simmons remarked that the process used for this resolution is based on the policy that is currently in place and is the same policy that was in place when the offer was made.

Councilman Clough asked what would be done with the property.

Mr. Hiller stated that he was not aware of their plans.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND DEFEATED WITH COUNCILWOMAN BURNS, COUNCILMAN CLOUGH AND COUNCILMAN SIMMONS VOTING YEA AND COUNCILMAN SMITH AND MAYOR BUTLER VOTING NAY
(Approval for sale of property requires four votes)

ADJOURNMENT

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 7:22 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCILMAN CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SIMMONS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

BUDGET SESSION

In addition to the previously listed individuals, the following were also present for the Budget Session:

**POLICE CHIEF ROBERT PICHE
FIRE CHIEF DAN GAUMONT
DEPUTY CHIEF MILT SAYRE
CITY COMPTROLLER JAMES McCAULEY
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER BONNIE ROBBE
DPW SUPERINTENDENT EUGENE HAYES
CITY ASSESSOR MARLENE NORFOLK
WATER SUPERINTENDENT GARY PILON
PURCHASING AGENT ROBERT CLEAVER**

Page 80 – Police Department

Mr. Hiller advised Council that there had been a conference call with the consultant relative to the Police part of the public safety study. Aspects were outlined for recommendations. However, it is still in the preliminary stages. More data has to be sent back to the consultant. Mr. Hiller explained that while there is potential for savings, it is predicated on negotiations. He also advised that the PBA's president was present for the conversation. The City is now waiting to hear back from the union. Mr. Hiller stated that the consultant had said that the department is very well run and organized. He stated that the consultant felt the morale was good and commended many of the areas within the department. He stated the consultant did not find the department over-staffed. Mr. Hiller commented that there is probably nothing in the suggested changes that would impact budget deliberations for this fiscal year.

Cell Phones

Councilman Clough asked about the cell phones in the department.

Chief Piche explained that, while they don't like to see any gone, they would give up the bag phones in the cars because laptops will be going in and they can communicate through the use of them. He also advised Council that CID don't have radios mounted in their leased vehicles, so they need the phones and radios to communicate. In addition, the Community Police Officers are out in the field and people would rather call them on their cell phones than to talk with dispatch. Also, the Task Force Officers need the phones.

Councilman Clough asked if all 15 bags phones were needed or if the phones could be switched from car to car with shift changes.

Chief Piche explained that these phones are mounted units and it would be a nightmare to have to shift them each time.

Parking Enforcement Officer

Councilwoman Burns asked about this position.

Chief Piche explained that this person enforces two-hour parking as well as doing patrols for parking violators in the downtown areas, handicap parking areas and no parking areas. He is also the runner for the department.

Overtime

Councilman Simmons asked Chief Piche about this line item.

Chief Piche advised that looking at the present year, it averages out to about \$14,000 a month, with the exception of April, which is projected at about \$16,000. He stated that the department has attempted to control the overtime. He explained that part of the drop in overtime is due to the fact that Judge Harberson is now going down to the PSB to do arraignments. This means that one less officer has to be dedicated to special duty of bringing people up to City Hall for arraignment.

Page 214- Police Vehicles

Chief Piche addressed Council's questions concerning these vehicles. He explained that these vehicles would be replacements for previously purchased vehicles. He also explained that this is to work toward their goal of getting vehicles on a two-year turn around time.

Mr. Hiller advised Council that this is the first time that he has proposed borrowing for the police cars, in an effort to relieve the budgetary impact on the tax rate.

Chief Piche listed the mileage on the present vehicles and explained that about 50,000 miles are put on each vehicle each year. He also explained that it takes about 8 months to receive the vehicles after the order has been placed.

Page 84 – Fire Department

Overtime

Mayor Butler asked about the three new firefighters who were hired in an effort to reduce overtime. He asked how long those positions had been vacant.

Chief Gaumont explained that to date, the department has spent \$421,000 in overtime. He explained that the new people were hired in February and start school in July. One of those positions had been vacant since December '01 and two had been vacant since

January '02. He also explained that three or four more employees would probably be retiring by August. All of these are active duty.

Council asked for current overtime figures.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that \$286,883 had been spent in overtime through January 2002. She also explained that in prior years, the overtime was paid twice a year. Now, it is paid with every payday.

Councilwoman Burns asked what the overtime was attributed to, if it was for minimum manning.

Chief Gaumont explained that \$30,000 was for the Cellutech fire and the rest was to cover sick, vacation, other fires and minimum manning.

Councilman Simmons asked how the Chief gauges for minimum manning.

Chief Gaumont explained Chief Sayre tries to shift people to cover for vacancies and short falls. He explained that. He also referred to the union's offer and explained that he was trying to "guesstimate" what would be involved with their offer since the department is averaging about 10 people short for most of the year.

Discussion was held concerning the health insurance costs the City incurs when someone retires from the department due to lifetime coverage. Mr. Hiller explained that when someone retires, the City pays their coverage and then when a person is put in this position, the City also pays for their coverage, minus the employee contribution.

Councilman Smith asked Chief Gaumont if the Deputy Chief position should be eliminated.

Chief Gaumont responded that he would hope Council would wait until the study comes back to make any changes. He stated that to eliminate the position would be extremely detrimental to the department. He stated that the position plays a very active role in the 82-person department and if the Fire Chief isn't there, the Deputy Chief is the only non-union person. He stated that it would mean that the union would be running the department. He stated that it is not prudent to allow union employees to do administration and management duties at that level. He questioned how a union employee could discipline another union employee.

Training

Councilman Simmons asked if all battalion chiefs were training officers and questioned why employees had to go to Montour Falls to receive their training.

Chief Gaumont explained that the training received in Montour Falls is level two.

He also explained that only Battalion Chief Herman is current as a training officer. One other battalion chief is a training officer, but is not current at this time.

Council questioned why the battalion chiefs couldn't do the training.

Chief Sayre explained that at one time, different battalion chiefs filled the role of training officer. However, each person looks at things differently and you could end up with four different policies instead of one. If one person is in charge, it makes for a more cohesive training program.

Fire Apparatus Parts

Councilwoman Burns asked about this line item.

Chief Gaumont explained that these parts are to fix vehicles such as the aerial ladder and pumper.

Secretary Position

Mayor Butler asked Chief Gaumont about cutting this position back to part time.

Chief Gaumont remarked that while it was a tough decision to make, he felt that the workload was not there to justify it being full time. He explained that with the computers being installed, everyone is able to do their own memos and letters. He also stated that with the installation of the firehouse software, it allows payroll to be automatically updated on a daily basis.

Mayor Butler asked who had typed the EMS report, which the Chief had given to Council a few months ago.

Chief Gaumont stated that he had done it himself.

Dispatch Calls

Councilman Clough referred to talks about calls, which the Fire Department didn't need to respond to.

Chief Gaumont explained that they have spoken with Charlie Brennon, Dr. Withington and MMA. It was recommended that the proposed cuts be passed through to Attorney Slye for him to address the liability issues.

Union's Proposal

Councilman Simmons remarked that he would like to discuss the proposal in open session. He asked that it be prepared for Thursday night's meeting.

Council concurred with the request.

Councilman Simmons asked if that was all right with Capt. Lachenauer.

Capt. Lachenuaer responded that it was.

Mr. Hiller advised Councilman Simmons that Capt. Lachenauer is not negotiating with the Council on this issue. He stated that the Council authorized the City Manager to be the negotiator.

Mrs. Corrvieau explained that the City has already submitted a response in writing to the union and the City is now waiting to hear back from them.

Councilman Simmons asked to see copies of the letters on Thursday and asked that the Council discuss the six points listed in the proposal.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that they are still discussing the ground rules for negotiations and there will be no negotiations until the ground rules are established.

Councilman Simmons asked Capt. Lachenauer if he would contact the union's attorney to get the process moving.

Capt. Lachenauer stated that he would.

Mr. Hiller asked that Council advise him as to what his bargaining parameters are.

Mayor Butler responded that Council couldn't accept the preamble as a condition to discuss potential savings.

Mrs. Corriveau read a portion of the preamble indicated that this is premised on maintaining 15-member minimum manning; 3 members per rig and 3 existing fire houses.

Mr. Hiller advised Council that Capt. Lachenauer phoned him and said that he also wanted the 3-minute response time in the preamble or otherwise there would be no use in continuing the discussion.

Councilman Simmons referred to the letter from Capt. Lachenauer outlining 6 points. Councilman Simmons stated that it doesn't state any of those things that are in the preamble. He remarked that he couldn't support the preamble just to negotiate the 6 points.

Mayor Butler remarked that Council is saying that they don't accept the preamble and this is not an exchange.

Mr. Hiller stated that the City had agreed that it is in their contract now and they were not trying to change the clause.

Councilman Clough asked Capt. Lachenauer if when talking of not closing a fire hall, is the union saying forever?

Mr. Hiller responded that the Council should not be negotiating with the union during a Council meeting.

Councilman Simmons remarked that we need to push this issue and stated that he felt it was mishandled on both sides.

Mr. Hiller and Capt. Lachenauer both commented that they take issue with this and neither felt it had been mishandled on their prospective sides.

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The changes to this page were given to Council.

Chief Gaumont explained that the breathing apparatus is needed as the present apparatus has reached its expected life cycle. He also advised that between now and September, they should know about the grant. However, he also advised Council that regardless of whether or not the grant is received, it is imperative that these breathing apparatus be purchased.

Councilman Clough stated that he has been told that Scott air packs don't need to be replaced.

Chief Gaumont advised Councilman Clough that this information is not correct and that the air cylinders will be unusable within the next two years.

Mayor Butler asked if this could be done over a two-year period.

Chief Gaumont explained that this is a safety issue. All of the apparatus is due to be unusable and waiting is not an option.

Councilman Simmons asked if the exhaust system could be held off for one more year.

It will be taken out and resubmitted in next year's budget.

Additional Cuts

Councilman Smith asked if Mr. Hiller or Chief Gaumont had any other recommendations for cuts.

Mr. Hiller explained that, other than the cuts that the department and staff made prior to the presentation of the budget, he had given the Council memos concerning cuts to cell phones and training/travel accounts.

Chief Gaumont responded that he has no recommendations. However, he hopes that the City doesn't have any large fires or problems with any of the vehicles.

Page 183 – Tourism

Mr. McCauley advised Council that the revenue in this account could be raised by \$7,000.

Mayor Butler proposed giving Thompson Park Conservancy \$22,000 and \$4,000 to the Miss New York State Pageant and placing the rest in destination marketing. He stated that the City would see a savings of \$26,000, as the \$22,000 would be deleted from the budget in the Thompson Park account.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the funding gets transferred into the general fund and Council could appropriate however much they want to from the general fund.

Mr. Hiller also mentioned that Council indicated in February that the publicity account would be for the Thompson Park Conservancy as well as the kayaking proposal, etc.

Mr. McCauley explained that the money comes in on a quarterly basis.

Council referred to the Thompson Park line item on page 112.

Councilman Smith stated that he would like to see it cut to \$11,000.

Councilwoman Burns responded that before the volunteers in the Conservancy stepped forward, we spent a lot of money for a lot less.

There was Council consensus to put this amount at \$20,000.

Mayor Butler remarked that he prefers tourism promotion to the term destination marketing.

Travel/Training Budget

Council concurred to reduce this account by \$20,000. (General Fund)

Health Insurance

Councilman Clough asked where the City stands at this time.

Mrs. Robbe explained that as of the end of April, we are holding our own. We haven't had to borrow as of this date. The monthly transfers have been enough to cover the claims. She also advised that there was a \$67,000 balance at the end of April. There was \$144,000 worth of claims for the first two weeks in May and Mrs. Robbe explained that there would probably be about \$100,000 in prescriptions in May. She advised Council that the monthly transfer is approximately \$290,000.

Mr. Hiller commented that Council must remember that the rates for Fire and Management employees was raised steeply for this fiscal year and will be raise steeply again for the new fiscal year.

Councilman Simmons asked what the costs were for 2000-01.

Mrs. Robbe will prepare a report on this.

Page 213- DPW

Council approved the purchase of the dump truck, 1-13.

Council did not approve the purchase of the front-end loader 1-67. This is to be moved to the next year's budget.

Councilman Clough remarked that the City should be waiting to make decisions about equipment after the committee, which he and Councilwoman Burns are on, has finished their work.

It was explained to Councilman Clough that the equipment at the airport, goes with the airport. It will not be brought back for use in DPW if the airport is no longer the City's.

Mayor Butler remarked that the airport committee is just to determine the advantages of continuing the airport – not how it will be funded.

Councilwoman Burns agreed but stated that the next step is to determine to whose economic advantage it is.

Yard Waste & Re-organization of Various City Departments

Council agreed to discuss this on Thursday evening.

Adjournment

Budget session adjourned at 9:18 p.m. The next budget session is Thursday, May 16th at 6 p.m.

Donna M. Dutton, City Clerk

